



## Austin City Council MINUTES

For SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 21, 1983  
9:00 A.M. 1983-84 FINANCIAL PLAN

Council Chambers, 301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas

### City Council

Ron Mullen  
Mayor

John Treviño, Jr.  
Mayor Pro Tem

Council Members  
Mark Rose  
Roger Duncan  
Sally Shipman  
Mark E. Spaeth  
Charles E. Urdy

Nicholas M. Meiszer  
City Manager

Elden Aldridge  
Acting City Clerk

### Memorandum To:

Mayor Mullen called to order the Special Called Meeting of the Council, noting the presence of all Councilmembers. Mayor Mullen announced the purpose of the meeting is to consider the 1983-84 Operating Budget, all fees, CIP Budget and the setting of the tax rate plus votes on changes to homestead exemption. Items related to the budget for Council action are adoption of the tax roll and a vote on changes to historic exemptions.

Ann Bradstreet, Director of Personnel, reviewed the proposed employee wage increase and employee's insurance.

Mayor Mullen, Councilmember Duncan, Mr. Meiszer and Mayor Pro Tem Treviño discussed the amount of money to be left in the ending balance, and the consensus was 4.75% of the total budget shall be designated for the ending balance.

Council discussed several parts of the budget and made the following motions:

#### Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Rose's motion, Councilmember Spaeth's second, approved the Water and Wastewater Budget as presented by the City Manager with \$208,908 appropriated from the Water and Wastewater ending balance for the Energy Management Department and the general wage increase is not to be extended to new employees.  
(7-0 Vote)

#### Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Mayor Mullen's second, approved the OERM budget with the addition of \$35,000.  
(7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Councilmember Rose's second, approved the Planning Department Budget as presented, plus an additional \$45,000 for neighborhood planning. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Councilmember Rose's second, approved the Energy Management Department budget as presented with an addition of \$293,000 from the Electric Utility Fund Ending Balance. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Councilmember Rose's second, approved the Electric Utility Department budget with \$293,000 from the ending balance to be transferred to the Energy Management Department and a two-step rate increase to be effective as follows: 10% on November 1, 1983 and 10% on April 1, 1984. (7-0 Vote) (Later amended to March 1, 1984.)

At this point, Mayor Mullen pointed out that, for the first time, Council is relying heavily on the City Manager's judgement to make budget adjustments.

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Rose's motion, Mayor Mullen's second, approved an 8% increase in water and wastewater rates effective November 1, 1983. (7-0 Vote)

Motion Amended

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Mayor Mullen's second, amended the motion concerning increase in electric rates as follows: 10% on November 1, 1983 and 10% on March 1, 1984. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's second, approved fee increases for the Planning Department. (6-0 Vote, Councilmember Urdy out of the room.)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Councilmember Rose's second, approved OERM fees. (6-0 Vote, Councilmember Urdy was out of the room.)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Rose's motion, Councilmember Duncan's second, approved all Water and Wastewater fee changes as recommended by staff. (6-0 Vote. Councilmember Urdy was out of the room.)

## RECESS

Council recessed its meeting at 3:00 P.M. and resumed its recessed meeting at 4:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Councilmembers discussed pay raises for themselves. Mayor Mullen said he would like the Mayor's pay raised to \$25,000 annually after the next election. Councilmember Rose wondered if Council can obligate an expense outside of their budget year. Mayor Mullen said they were not appropriating funds. He said he does not want a raise at all at this time.

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Duncan's second, approved a \$25,000 maximum annual salary for the Mayor and \$22,000 maximum annual salary for Councilmembers. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Duncan's second, adopted the budget as recommended by the City Manager, including fees and amendments for all departments except Police Department, Parks Department, Human Services, Arts, Employee Benefit Package and Bed Tax. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Shipman's motion, Mayor Mullen's second, approved the Social Services budget. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Rose's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's second, approved the Police Department budget as recommended to also include two technicians (1 photo lab and one ballistics lab); five police officers and two senior sergeants, to be done on 8 month phase in; and adoption of 4 and 1 pension plan for both Fire and Police Departments. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Urdy's second, approved extension of Chamber of Commerce and Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce contracts to November and accept the City Manager recommendation with \$37,000 to the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Councilmember Rose's second, approved the Parks and Recreation budget and reduction in fees. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Spaeth's second, approved the appropriations for Arts as recommended, with the addition of American Federation of Musician's, \$10,300; Ebony Dancers, \$1,000; El Grupo, \$3,400, with money to be taken from Auditorium fund with \$15,000 returned to the fund if the bed tax is increased. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Spaeth's motion, Mayor Mullen's second, approved a \$25,000.00 homestead exemption for the elderly and the handicapped. (7-0 Vote)

Motion - DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND

Mayor Mullen made a motion to approve a 4% across the board pay raise for employees, plus a 1% bonus and a 3½% merit pay bonus. There was no second to the motion.

Council discussed whether to have an across the board percentage pay raise or a flat rate pay raise and decided to take a vote.

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Councilmember Urdy's second, approved a flat rate pay raise for employees. (6-1 Vote, Mayor Mullen voted No.)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Urdy's motion, Councilmember Duncan's second, approved a flat rate increase of \$64.00 plus a 1% bonus for all employees. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Spaeth's motion, Mayor Mullen's second, approved an average 3½% merit bonus. (4-3 Vote, Councilmembers Urdy, Duncan and Shipman voted No.)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Shipman's motion, Councilmember Rose's second, approved changes to historic exemptions as recommended by staff and the Landmark Commission. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Duncan's second, approved vehicle rider insurance for \$24,341 from the General Fund. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Urdy's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's second, approved benefits for permanent part-time employees which include stability pay, vacation and sick leave, when employed by the City for one year or more. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Councilmember Duncan's motion, Councilmember Rose's second, approved employee's merit pay anniversary being the same time next year with a report back from staff on cost, plus a report on retirement contributions being deferred compensation for tax purposes. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Spaeth's second, waived the requirement for three readings and finally passed an ordinance adopting the 1983-84 Financial Plan for the City of Austin with amendments acted upon September 21, 1983. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Spaeth's second, adopted a resolution adopting the tax roll. (7-0 Vote)

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Mullen's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's second, waived the requirement for three readings and finally passed an ordinance setting the tax rate at 6.47%. (7-0 Vote)

*(Hotel Occupancy Tax)*

ADJOURNMENT

After comments by Mayor Mullen and members of the Council concerning the expertise of the staff concerning the Budget, Council adjourned its meeting at 7:30 p.m.